

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND  
WILDLIFE  
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 7  
Columbia River Joint State Hearing  
May 17, 2012**

<b><i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i></b> Non-Treaty fisheries update Recreational salmon upstream of Bonneville Dam
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*Stock status and management guidelines for 2012 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1 (January 26, 2012).*

***Stock Status and Management Guidelines***

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through May 16 totals 130,098 adults. The run has been tracking consistent with a late-timed run, and passage at Bonneville Dam by now is likely more than 50% complete.
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met May 14 and officially updated the run to 202,000 adult upriver Chinook to the Columbia River mouth (range 192,000-217,000. TAC reviewed the run again this morning, and refined the estimate to 216,500 fish. TAC is scheduled to meet again Monday, May 21.
- Under the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, a river mouth return of 216,500 adult upriver fish allows for an impact rate of 1.9% and a catch balance limit of 19,700 mortalities for non-Indian fisheries. Commission guidance directs managers to allocate the impacts 60% sport/35% commercial. Both the impact limit and the allocation percentages have changed from pre-season.

***Non-Treaty Fishery Updates***

- A total of two mainstem commercial salmon fishing periods (18 hours combined) have occurred to date. Chinook landings for 2012 total 6,180 fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 4,318 fish.
- Select Area fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through June 15. Landings thru May 11 total 3,711 Chinook. Upriver Chinook mortalities total 160 fish to date and are projected to total 179 fish for the season.
- The lower Columbia River recreational fishery was open for Chinook retention through Sunday April 22. Catch estimates total 12,950 kept and 2,162 released adult fish from 107,820 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 9,934 fish.
- The lower Columbia River downstream of I-5 Bridge opened May 16 for hatchery steelhead retention under permanent regulations.
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border was open through May 6. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 608 fish.

- The recreational fisheries on the Snake River (Washington waters) are ongoing and were scheduled to remain open through May 31. The fishery started off slow, but has since ramped up, concurrent with increased dam passage. Catch estimates through April 13 total 677 kept and 99 released adult fish. Including catch projections through May 20, kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 1,245 fish.
  - Effective Saturday May 19, the lower two of the four areas open will close in order to balance opportunity and remain within the allowable impacts/catch guidelines.

<b>Summary of 2012 Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches _ preliminary</b>						
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)					
	Pre-Update Allocated (219 K)	Inseason Allocated (216.5 K)	In Hand	Projected	Total	Balance
<b>Commercial</b>						
Mainstem	5,914	4,749	4,318	---	4,318	431
Select Area (in hand thru 5/11; proj. thru 6/15)	330	325	160	19	179	146
<b>Recreational</b>						
Below Bonneville	12,666	12,005	9,934	---	9,934	2,071
Bonn to OR/WA border	1,689	1,429	608	---	608	821
Snake River (in hand thru 5/13, proj .thru 5/20)	1,362	1,165	687	463	1,150	15
Wanapum Tribal	33	29	0	29	29	0
Total Upriver Impacts	21,994	19,702	15,707	511	16,218	3,484

- Management strategies for recreational fisheries were developed pre-season and included input from the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group and the general public. Fisheries occurring prior to the run update were based on allocations of upriver fish established based on guidance from the Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissions, ESA impact limitations, and catch balance provisions in the 2008-2017 Management Agreement. Discussion of post-update fisheries was limited but included support for the following approaches:
  - The recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam would re-open as soon as possible post-update to provide opportunity to catch the remaining allocation but also consider a start date that would allow the fishery to remain open for the remainder of the spring season (June 15), so that there would be no break prior to the onset of the summer season (June 16).
  - The recreational fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam would re-open as soon as possible to provide opportunity to meet the harvest allocation when fish were still present. The fishery would then close for the remainder of the spring season.

- Based on the number of upriver Chinook remaining on the allocation for the area upstream of Bonneville Dam, and preferences identified preseason, staff is making the following recommendation:

<i>2012 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries</i>		
<b>Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border</b>		
<b>Season:</b>	Saturday May 19 through Sunday May 20, 2012	(2 days)
<b>Area:</b>	Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to Oregon/Washington border, plus the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.	
<b>Daily Bag Limit:</b>	Two adult Chinook or steelhead per day or one of each. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.	
<b>Additional Regulations:</b>	For the mainstem Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishery from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to OR/WA border, effective through June 15, it is unlawful when fishing from vessels which are less than 30 feet in length (substantiated by Coast Guard documentation or Marine Board registration) to totally remove from the water any salmon or steelhead required to be released	

- Based on strong passage at Bonneville Dam during the past 10 days, Chinook abundance in the fishing area is relatively high. Staff estimates catch could reach 350 kept adult fish per day or 725 upriver mortalities for the proposed two-day season.
- If a longer retention season is preferred, delaying the opener for one week, should reduce catch rates enough to allow for a season 1-2 days longer (3-4 days total). Alternatively, opening the fishery during the week rather than the weekend may also slow catch enough to allow for an additional angler day.
- Staff will monitor the catch and provide recommendations for additional angling opportunity upstream of Bonneville Dam as warranted.

### **Future Meetings**

- Staff recommends a Joint Staff hearing be scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Wednesday May 23 to consider non-Indian fisheries.

#### Hearings already scheduled include:

-Summer Compact Hearing #1: 10:00 a.m. Wednesday June 13, 2012

-Fall Compact Hearing #1: 10:00 a.m. Thursday July 26, 2012

Both hearings will be held at The River Street Room (12 River Street) in Cathlamet, WA 98612. STREET PARKING ONLY